

MEDIA ADVISORY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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DPW SWITCHES GEARS TO ADDRESS MORNING SNOW CONDITIONS

But it's back to potholes late morning and afternoon

INDIANAPOLIS – After several days of fighting snow in the Circle City, Department of Public Works (DPW) Indy Snow Force workers switched hats this morning to resume the role of pothole repair.

“I’m truly proud of the men and women of DPW and the work they’ve done to clear snow from our streets,” said Mayor Greg Ballard. “We’re committed to providing the best possible service to Indianapolis residents and their efforts represent that.”

DPW Indy Snow Force crews began round-the-clock snow operations late last week. They persisted through late yesterday evening due to several inches of falling snow over the past week. Indy Snow Force crews encompassing staff from several DPW divisions including Street Maintenance, Engineering, Solid Waste, Traffic Control and Forestry worked to clear more than 8 inches of snow from the city’s 375 major snow routes. In addition, 203 residential contractors were called in over the weekend to remove 6.7 inches of snow from residential areas. As part of enhancements to the city’s snow operations program, the number of residential contractors employed by the city was upgraded by 100% at the beginning of the winter season to provide more service in residential areas.

Beginning early this morning, city crews took advantage of the break in weather to address chuckholes that have formed as a result of the city’s constant freeze/thaw cycles.

Recurring freeze/thaw cycles play a major role in the formation of potholes. Melting ice and snow enter cracks in the pavement. The water then freezes and the ice expands. When the ice under the road surface melts, it leaves a concave area under the pavement. Vehicles traveling over the concave areas create potholes as the road service breaks due to vehicles’ weight.

Under the leadership of the Ballard Administration, several pothole repair improvements—including better pothole repair methods, better resource management and more crack-sealing work—have resulted in the city averaging about 5,000 less pothole complaints from the spring of 2009 to January 2010 compared to the same periods in previous years.

In an unprecedented strategy to improve city streets, DPW began efforts to crack-seal more than 1,400 lane miles of city streets by the spring of 2010. This is one of the most significant preventive maintenance efforts the city has ever seen.

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In previous years, the city's lack of crack-sealing work had a major impact on the number of potholes residents and commuters had to navigate when driving city streets during the winter and spring of 2008. In addition to implementing Six Sigma strategies to improve the pothole repair process, city officials in the Ballard Administration committed to a more proactive approach, budgeting \$1.4 million for crack-sealing work and purchasing four new crack-sealing machines that year.

By the end of 2008, city operations crews completed over 250 lane miles of crack-sealing, contributing to significantly less pothole complaints and a greatly decreased number of potholes across the city.

Directed to seek additional ways to do more to protect citizens and their vehicles from existing street damage, department officials combined the resources of the engineering and street maintenance divisions of DPW. This strategy for improving existing street infrastructure allowed the city to contract out almost 1,200 lane miles of crack sealing work to supplement approximately 250 lane miles of crack-sealing work planned by the street maintenance division.

Funds for the effort are a result of under-run savings of about \$2 million from other engineering projects.

For more information about the Chuckhole Kaizen Response, click on the following link to learn more about the city's efforts in partnership with Eli Lilly to improve pothole repair methods in Marion County.
http://indianapolis.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=223

To report a pothole online visit: <http://www.indy.gov/eGov/Mayor/Pages/Pothole.aspx>.
You may also call the Mayor's Action Center (MAC) at 327-4622 to report a pothole.

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